

December 13, 2002

Dolphus Weary
Executive Director
Mission Mississippi
P.O. Box 22655
Jackson, MS 39225-2655

Dear Dr. Weary:

On behalf of the governors of 13 states and Puerto Rico, I would like to invite you to speak at a pivotal conference on leadership and citizen engagement in the South. The conference, scheduled for June 1-3, 2003, in Biloxi, Mississippi, will attract some 400 of the South's top leaders from the worlds of business, academia and public service.

This conference will explore leadership issues that are critical in bringing about positive change in our states and communities. We would be honored if you could join us to participate in a panel focused on the need to broaden and diversify leadership, while promoting connections between people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I know our region's public and private leaders would benefit from the insights you have gained through your work with Mission Mississippi.

The conference is being organized by the Southern Growth Policies Board, for which I serve as chairman. Southern Growth, which was formed by the Southern governors in 1971, is a nonprofit, interstate compact composed of governors, legislators and citizen representatives from each of its member jurisdictions. Its mission is to help improve the economy and quality of life in the South through dialog and collaboration among a wide cross-section of the region's policy and program leaders. (See www.southern.org.)

For additional information on the conference, please contact Jim Clinton, Southern Growth's executive director, at (919) 941-5145 or jclinton@southern.org. I would be grateful if you would be part of this historic and exciting meeting on the future of the South and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr